Agnes Elizabeth, Phoebe Jannett, Mary May and George Richard.

GEORGE SMITH

The life history of George Smith reads somewhat like an exciting novel and forms a very interesting biography.

George Smith was born January 8, 1852, in Beddingham, Sussex, England, son of William and Eliza Reed Smith. He had one sister, two brothers and four half-brothers and sisters. At the age of nine years he quit school and worked to help maintain the family. He was placed out with a family of farmers to learn that occupation and worked his apprenticeship, which was the custom in the old country. He has a certificate of honor, showing that he worked for this farmer nine years without missing a week's work. That apprenticeship shaped his entire life, as you will see when you read on.

(1) While working at this farm he met a young lady by the name of Hannah Louise Turner. She belonged to the Church and in due time he went to Church with her and heard a missionary preach. That missionary happened to be George Burton of Midway, Utah, who was then in England on a mission. On June 6, 1871, he was baptized into the Church. The ordinance was performed in a large bathtub, as the saints were severely persecuted when they held public baptismal services.

On August 3, 1871, he married this Hannah Turner, and on October 22, the same year, they left England for America. His only earthly possession was a large feather bed he carried on his back to the railroad station, a distance of several miles.

George Smith's mother died a year before he joined the Church. She belonged to the Church of England. His father and his father's brothers were very bitter against Mormonism. An uncle told him he would sooner see him die than to come to Utah with the Mormons. All these arguments and threats did not change his course in life, but sealed and clinched his testimony of the divinity of the gospel he had espoused.

They arrived in New York that fall, came direct by train, reaching Ogden in November. He had exactly five cents in his pocket when he arrived there, which he spent for a loaf of bread, and they still had their only possession—the feather mattress!

They stayed a few days with his wife's relatives. While there, Uncle Nymphus Murdock of Charleston sent word to Ogden that he would like to hire an emigrant farmer to feed cattle. George Smith had that preparation to accept the position. So in December, P. A. Murdock brought George and his wife to Charleston. They lived with Uncle Nymphus about a year, when they bought a little home of their own.

It wasn't long before George Smith owned more than 100 acres of land in Charleston. He later homesteaded a tract of land in Daniel, where the Lawrence Anderson home now stands. He then commenced a business of buying and selling farm produce. He bought produce and livestock from the farmers of the valley and peddled the same to the mining camps and in Salt Lake City. He made a trip once a week to Salt Lake with butter from the Charleston Creamery and never missed a trip for five years, traveling through all kinds of weather and often making his own roads.

On one occasion, when it seemed impossible to raise a dollar from any source, he went to Springville and bought 900 dozen eggs and a wagon box full of oats. He put a layer of oats alternately with layers of eggs in the wagon box and hauled them to Park City on a bobsleigh in the middle of winter. He sold both the eggs and oats for a good price. A snowslide in Provo Canyon almost claimed his life at that time.

On another occasion he bought 200 hogs in this valley and, with the help of several boys, drove them to Salt Lake City and marketed them. It took ten days to drive those hogs into Salt Lake City—the only known instance of railing hogs in the state, although it was quite commonly done in England, and that could have been where he got his idea.

This man's life was full of such instances. He never missed an opportunity to make a dollar to thus provide for his large families. To this union were born seven children: Angus Marie (Lue), Eliza (Dot), George William, David Mahonri, Mabel, Ruby and Sylvan Lewis.

The good mother of this family passed away at the birth of Sylvan. Later George

(2) Smith married Mary Ann Davis Moulton, wife of William Denton Moulton (deceased), who had four children to add to the Smith household: William Davis Moulton, Moroni Davis Moulton, Elizabeth, Hyrum Moulton.

Then to this union were born four more children: Olive Elsie, Blanche Louise, Luella and Earl H.

In 1895, this family moved to Park City, where he conducted a successful meat and grocery business. While there he served as mayor of Park City and chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Summit County. He served in several Church capacities, including the High Council of Summit Stake.

In 1911 they moved back to Heber and opened a meat market just west of the Wave Publishing Company. Since returning to Heber he has served two terms in the City Council. He acted as building inspector of many of our modern structures, including the Wasatch High School. He served as a member of the bishopric in both Charleston and Heber First Wards. He served as chaplain in the state Senate. He was always a devout believer in prayer and was a man of strong character.

George Smith was a family man, and it was always a source of regret to him that his people in England felt as they did when he joined the Church. Thirty-five years after he came to this country he returned to England with Uncle Nymphus Murdock, to visit his folks. At first they refused to acknowledge or identify him. They said he was not that small, thin-faced boy who left England in 1871; that he was an impostor who had come to deceive and lead them into Mormonism. He was only successful in proving his identity by singing a song to an elderly aunt, the song she taught him as a small boy.

Perhaps the most outstanding characteristic of his life was his loyalty. He was loyal to his country, loyal to his Church, his friends and family. George Smith never grew old in mind. He died 91 years young, March 23, 1943.

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